

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Week Ending March 30, 2012

News Coverage of Low-RVP Fuel Shifts Focus from Proposed Legislation to Possible Waiver - In addition to local media coverage, Reuters and Politico were among the news organizations covering what may happen with the clean gasoline requirement in the Pittsburgh-Beaver County ozone non-attainment area. EPA has been working with the state on this matter. Pennsylvania has not officially asked for a waiver. On Friday, U.S. Senator Bob Casey asked EPA to consider granting a temporary waiver for Pennsylvania for summer blend gasoline requirements, which would ease supply constraints and moderate retail gasoline prices. (Bonnie Smith, 814-5543)

Congratulatory Editorial on Meeting Air Quality Standards for PM - The Pittsburgh Post Gazette editorial "Better air: Controls and enforcement add up to compliance" praised all the efforts made to bring the area into compliance, including significant reductions from both U.S. Steel's Clairton Coke Works and Shenango Coke on Neville Island. The editorial said, "The region is in attainment of the federal air quality standard for fine-particle pollution for the first time in more than a decade... Compliance is determined by a three-year average, in this case 2009-2011. Jim Thompson, the county's air quality program manager, boasted that the local air "is the best it has been since the Industrial Revolution began more than 100 years ago. May it continue for another hundred?" (Bonnie Smith, 814-5543)

Baltimore NPR Station Does Segment on Sauer Dump Superfund Site - HSCD's Linda Dietz was interviewed on the Maryland Morning Show on WYPR in Baltimore for a feature on the Sauer Dump Superfund Site in Dundalk, Md. Linda provided some background on the site and also explained the process of how a cleanup site gets put on the National Priorities List. You can listen to the segment on the WYPR website - <http://mdmorn.wordpress.com/2012/03/26/326121/>. (Roy Seneca, 814-5567)

National Public Radio Runs Segment on Dimock - A Town Divided - Reporter Susan Phillips from WHYY in Philadelphia did a segment on National Public Radio that focused on how the natural gas boom in Pennsylvania's Susquehanna County has led to a divided community among residents who support and oppose the widespread hydrofracking activities in Dimock, Pa. A text version of the segment is posted on the State Impact Pennsylvania website: <http://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/2012/03/28/dimock-a-town-divided/>. (Roy Seneca, 814-5567)

Bloomberg News Runs Article on Methane in Dimock Water Samples - Reporter Mark Dragem from Bloomberg News wrote an article that focused on how independent scientists interpreted water sampling data from 11 homes in Dimock as containing high levels of methane. The scientists claimed that elevated levels of methane reported in EPA's analyses are a sign that natural gas from the Marcellus Shale is migrating to the surface water table. The article noted EPA's email response stating that we notified state and local officials about the methane. (Terri White, 814-5523 and Roy Seneca, 814-5567)

PRESS RELEASES

- Mar. 13** Metro Container Corp. Site Added to the Superfund List (Seneca)
Sauer Dump Added to EPA Superfund List (Seneca)
- Mar. 14** EPA Encourages Saving Water during Fix a Leak Week (Sternberg)
- Mar. 26** EPA Cites Realty Company for Violating Federal Law on Notice of Lead-based Paint Hazards in Reading, Pa (Heron)